

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 5

COUNTRY Spain

DATE DISTR. 14 JUN

SUBJECT Socialist Activity Inside Spain

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Socialist Party inside Spain reportedly is considering sending a delegate to the Congress of the Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) in exile, scheduled to be held in Toulouse from 22 to 25 June 1950. By mid-May it appeared to source that the delegate would be the Executive Committee Secretary, Antonio VIZCAINO. Other members of the Committee reportedly did not want to send the President of the Committee, Tomas CENTENO,* feeling that CENTENO wished merely to get out of Spain and would remain in France. Teodomiro MENENDEZ, who while not a member of the Executive Committee exercises considerable influence on the member known as DARRIBAS, in early May had suggested the latter for delegate. Other members of the Committee objected to DARRIBAS, allegedly because of his age and delicate health.
2. Source learned in mid-May that opposition was growing to CENTENO, who for fear of police discovery was opposed to any activity by the Executive Committee. Earlier, MENENDEZ had hinted that he would like to have CENTENO eliminated from the Committee, but had refused to give any reason other than that he simply did not like CENTENO.
3. In mid-February the Socialist leaders, who had been at odds over participation in the Comité Interior de Coordinación (CIC)** agreed that they would keep in closer touch with the exiled Socialists and in particular with Indalecio PRIETO. MENENDEZ, who was in charge of receiving and answering correspondence from France, was instructed to write PRIETO that the Socialist Party as such had no representative in the CIC. By mid-March the Executive Committee members were concerned over MENENDEZ' delay in completing the letter, which also was to authorize the exiled Socialists to be the exclusive negotiators with the Monarchists, provided that those inside Spain were kept advised of any agreements reached. The letter eventually was dispatched, and an Executive Committee member stated in early May that PRIETO had replied that he would circulate the letter to the exile Executive Committee.***
4. According to a member of the interior Executive Committee, the Socialists were told that commitments made in their behalf by Antonio TRIGO, their delegate to the CIC, would enable the Monarchists to effect a coup d'état within two weeks. The Socialist position in late February was that the failure of such a coup to materialize voided any agreements made.

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5. The attitudes of MENENDEZ and DARRIBAS were again causing concern in the Committee in early May. Some time prior thereto, MENENDEZ had professed to agree with the Committee's position that there had been no official Socialist representation in the CIC since the arrest of TRIGO in the summer of 1949, and that all conversations since carried on with Monarchists or military men had been on a purely personal basis. In late April, the Executive Committee reportedly had agreed unanimously that negotiations with the Monarchists should be carried on exclusively by the exiles. A Committee member said that he felt sure that MENENDEZ and DARRIBAS were complying with that agreement. A few days later, however, he expressed the fear that they were reverting to action without the knowledge of the Executive Committee.
6. One point upon which the informant based his suspicions of MENENDEZ and DARRIBAS revolved around a small group of dissident Socialists who for several months had been demanding to be kept informed of the Committee's activities. In mid-April Antonio VIZCAINO and MENENDEZ had explained to this group that the clandestine nature of the Committee's activities made it impossible to keep all the members informed. The dissidents were not satisfied with the explanation and said that they would feel free to act independently in the future. In early May, however, MENENDEZ, without further explanation, told the informant that he and DARRIBAS had adjusted the problem.
7. Among the dissidents were Antonio SIERRA, one CAZORLA (fna), Jose LOPEZ y Lopez and Angel MARTIN. According to CENTENO, LOPEZ was the leader of the group and has Communist tendencies. He reportedly was employed in the Press and Propaganda Section of the Spanish Embassy in Paris during the time of the Republic.

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Comment. Although CENTENO is called "Antonio" by his colleagues and has previously been referred to as Antonio CENTENO, source learned that his real first name is Tomas.

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Comment. A communication to the Socialist Party from Trifon GOMEZ and PRIETO published in El Socialista for 4 May reports that the party in Spain no longer belongs to the CIC and has agreed that all negotiations with the Monarchists be conducted in exile.

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